

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Glen Farbanish on 02/09/2012. The application has been amended as follows:

Replace claim 1 with the following:

---1. An apparatus comprising:

at least one processor; and

a memory electronically coupled to the at least one processor and comprising instructions that when executed by the at least one processor direct the at least one processor to:

receive from a bettor a wager on an event at desired odds, in which the wager has a bet amount associated therewith, and in which the event comprises a plurality of participants and a plurality of betting options;

determine odds for the plurality of betting options, the odds comprising at least:

i) first odds for a first betting option, and

ii) second odds for a second betting option;

determine that a combination of at least the first odds and the second odds produces third odds that at least approximate the desired odds; and

based at least in part on determining that the third odds at least approximate the desired odds,

establish for the bettor at least:

a first bet on the first betting option, and

a second bet on the second betting option;

allocate a first portion of the bet amount to the first bet; and

allocate a second portion of the bet amount to the second bet.—

In claim 3 line 2, replace "make the processor further operable" with –further direct the at least one processor--.

Replace claim 9 with the following

--9. The apparatus of claim 1, in which the instructions, that when executed, further direct the at least one processor to:

determine that no combination of the determined odds produces odds that at least approximate the desired odds; and

based at least in part on determining that no combination of the determined odds produces odds that at least approximate the desired odds, establish for the bettor a third bet on one of the plurality of betting options at the determined odds for that betting option.--

Replace claim 10 with the following:

--10. The apparatus of claim 1, in which the instructions, that when executed, further direct the at least one processor to:

determine a target percentage based at least in part on the desired odds and a takeout associated with the wager;

determine a first percentage for the first odds; and

determine a second percentage for the second odds; and

in which to determine that the third odds at least approximate the desired odds comprises to determine that at least the first percentage and the second percentage produce a third percentage that at least approximates the target percentage.--

Replace claim 13 with the following:

--13. A method for managing bets, comprising:

displaying, by at least one processor, a plurality of betting options for a field of participants for an event, each betting option associated with particular odds for one or more participants to finish in a particular subset of finishing positions in the event;

receiving customized odds for a bet, in which the bet has a bet amount associated therewith;

selecting, by the at least one processor, a plurality of the betting options such that the odds associated with each of the selected betting options combine to produce odds that at least approximate the customized odds for the bet;

establishing, by the at least one processor, the bet on the selected betting options; and

allocating, by the at least one processor, respective portions of the bet amount to each of the selected betting options on which the bet is established. --

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Replace claim 25 with the following:

--25. A method comprising:

receiving from a bettor a wager on an event at desired odds, in which the wager has bet amount associated therewith, and in which the event comprises a plurality of participants and a plurality of betting options;

determining, by at least one processor, odds for the plurality of betting options, the odds comprising at least:

i) first odds for a first betting option, and

ii) second odds for a second betting option;

determining, by the at least one processor, that a combination of at least the first odds and the second odds produces third odds that at least approximate the desired odds; and

based at least in part on determining that the third odds at least approximate the desired odds,

establishing, by the at least one processor, for the bettor at least:

a first bet on the first betting option, and

a second bet on the second betting option;

allocating, by the at least one processor, a first portion of the bet amount to the first bet; and

allocating, by the at least one processor, a second portion of the bet amount to the second bet.--

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Replace claim 33 with the following:

--33. The method of claim 25, further comprising:

determining a target percentage based at least in part on the desired odds and a takeout associated with the wager;

determining a first percentage for the first odds; and

determining a second percentage for the second odds; and

in which determining that the third odds at least approximate the desired odds comprises determining that at least the first percentage and the second percentage produce a third percentage at least approximates the target percentage.—

Replace claim 36 with the following:

--36. An apparatus comprising:

at least one processor; and

a memory electronically coupled to the at least one processor and comprising instructions that when executed by the at least one processor direct the at least one processor to:

receive from a bettor a wager on an event, the wager comprising a first betting option at desired odds, in which the wager has bet amount associated therewith, and

in which the event comprises a plurality of participants and a plurality of betting options including the first betting option;

determine odds for the plurality of betting options, the odds comprising at least:

i) first odds for the first betting option, and

ii) second odds for a second betting option;
determine that at least the second odds in combination with the first odds produce third odds that at least approximate the desired odds; and

based at least in part on determining that the third odds at least approximate the desired odds, establish for the bettor at least:

a first bet on the first betting option at the first odds, and
a second bet on the second betting option at the second odds;
allocate a first portion of the bet amount to the first bet; and
allocate a second portion of the bet amount to the second bet.--

Replace claim 37 with the following:

--37. The apparatus of claim 36, in which the instructions, that when executed, further direct the at least one processor to:

determine that the wager comprises a winning wager based at least in part on a result of the event comprising any of the first betting option and the second betting option; and

based at least in part on determining that the wager comprises the winning wager, pay a total return for the wager.—

Replace claim 43 with the following:

--43. The apparatus of claim 36, in which the instructions, that when executed, further direct the at least one processor to:

determine that none of the determined odds in combination with the first odds produce odds that at least approximate the desired odds; and

based at least in part on determining that none of the determined odds in combination with the first odds produce odds that at least approximate the desired odds, establish for the bettor only the first bet on the first betting option at the first odds.--

Replace claim 44 with the following:

--44. The apparatus of claim 36, in which the instructions, that when executed, further direct the at least one processor to:

determine a target percentage based at least in part on the desired odds and a takeout associated with the wager;

determine a first percentage for the first odds; and

determine a second percentage for the second odds; and

in which to determine that at least the second odds in combination with the first odds at least approximates the desired odds comprises to determine that at least the second percentage in combination with the first percentage produce a third percentage at least approximates the target percentage.--

Replace claim 54 with the following:

--54. The apparatus of claim 1, in which the instructions, that when executed, further direct the at least one processor to cause the bettor to be notified that:

the first bet has been established for the bettor on the first betting option, and

the second bet has been established for the bettor on the second betting option.—

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The best prior art of record neither teaches nor renders obvious the following amended limitations of independent claims 1, 25, and 36 when considered in the context of the claims: determine that a combination of at least the first odds and the second odds produces third odds that at least approximate the desired odds, and based at least in part on determining that the third odds at least approximate the desired odds, establish for the better at least a first bet on the first betting option, and a second bet on the second betting option, the first bet having allocated a first portion of the bet amount at first odds and the second bet having allocated a second portion of the bet amount at second odds.

The best prior art of record neither teaches nor renders obvious the following amended limitations of independent claim 13 where considered in the context of the claim: selecting a plurality of the betting options such that the odds associated with each of the selected betting options combine to produce odds that at least approximate the customized odds for the bet, establishing the bet on the selected betting options and allocating respective portions of the bet amounts to each of the selected betting options on which the bet is established.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to STEVEN J. HYLINSKI whose telephone number is (571)270-1995. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9am-7pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Melba Bumgarner can be reached on (571)272-4709. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/STEVEN J HYLINSKI/

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